



*The Journey Begins.*

# Accent

An Avila University Publication

FALL 2014



# Our Legacy

Inspired Spaces

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CAPTIVATING TRUMAN LECTURE

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, posed for a picture with seven Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet – six of whom serve on the Board of Trustees – in front of the CSJ Historical Wall in the Learning Commons. Pictured, left to right: Mary McKay, Ph.D., Shawn Madigan, Ph.D., Mary Frances Johnson, Ph.D., Marie Joan Harris, Ph.D., Slepitz, Rita Schmitz, Ph.D., Paulette Gladis, Ph.D. and Paddy Lorenz, Ph.D.*

## Alumni and Friends,

Things are constantly changing at Avila University. Perhaps at no other time was the physical evolution of campus more evident than this summer, with the creation of our new Learning Commons, Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex and new parking lot (\$7 million of major improvement projects in 100 days). For Avila to grow and thrive, change is necessary and inevitable.

Through it all, the devotion and dedication to following and fulfilling the mission of our founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet is constant. As a Catholic university, it's imperative to provide opportunities for students to be inspired and grow in their faith. Our students understand and incorporate the values of the Sisters by finding God in moments of their day, in the faces of those around them and in service to others.

In this issue of *Accent*, you'll see stories of our mission coming to life. Our newest student-based facilities – the Learning Commons and the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex – recently were dedicated. Fifteen Sisters and hundreds of guests especially enjoyed the historical wall that depicts the story of the Sisters' journey from France to America's Midwest (front cover, story on page 12). This wall serves as the entrance to the Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D. Archives and Research Center, housed inside the Learning Commons, which contains the Women

Religious Special Collection, the archives of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Avila archives.

The CSJ heritage and mission shone through once again with the selection of the First Year Experience – Common Reading Program book, *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The true story of three Lost Boys from Sudan*. Avila's Common Reading Program emphasizes academic importance and assists in building relationships within the first year class. When author Alephonsion Deng (page 4) was selected as the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series featured speaker, we further understood his journey (page 26).

The charism of our founders – **serving the dear neighbor without distinction** – guides us. Your support allows us to continue to affect and serve record numbers of students who will go on and serve as shepherds to our mission, here at home and throughout the world. We thank you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Slepitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA  
President

#### Avila President

Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

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**T**wenty-two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet journeyed to Avila University in September to witness and celebrate the CSJ Historical Wall at the south end of the sparkling new Learning Commons. The Sisters equally were impressed by the Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D. Archives and Research Center, which is home to the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph materials, Women Religious Special Collection and Avila University archives. 📷

**Front row (L-R):** Joan Tolle, Mary Ann Donovan, Helen Flemington, Shawn Madigan, Ph.D., Ann Albrecht, Paddy Lorenz, Ph.D., Ann Landers, Rose McLarney '62.

**Middle row:** Mary McKay, Ph.D., Rita Schmitz, Ph.D., Paulette Gladis, Ph.D., Marie Joan Harris, Ph.D., Elaine Besand.

**Back row:** Marian Niemann '52, Gabrielle Smits, Laverne Aufmuth, Margaret Vincent '85, Jeanne Janssen, Mary Frances Johnson, Ph.D., Mary Kay Liston, Ruth Stuckel, Rosemary Flanigan '47, Ph.D., Helen Alder.



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*Jack Ovel, market president for Bank of America, accepts a Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Society medal on behalf of Bank of America through the support of the Victor E. Speas Foundation, John W. and Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust, Brisley Scholarship Loan Fund and Guy I. Bromley Trusts during the 2014 President's Circle reception.*

# The President's Circle

On September 18, 2014, members of Avila University's President's Circle gathered to celebrate the beginning of the University's 99th school year and induct a new member into the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Giving Society. President's Circle members are those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the University, while the Fr. Jean-Pierre Médaille Giving Society is comprised of individuals and organizations that have contributed more than \$1 million to Avila.

This year's inductee was Bank of America, through the support of the following trusts: Victor E. Speas Foundation,

John W. and Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust, Brisley Scholarship Loan Fund and Guy I. Bromley Trust. Support from Bank of America and these trusts helped establish the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex, the Learning Commons, provided more than \$300,000 in scholarships to students in need and supported Avila's nursing program and the renovation of science labs. Trustee Jack Ovel was on hand to accept a Fr. Médaille Society medal and purple vase as a token of deep appreciation and gratitude for support from the trusts and Bank of America. 🏆



*Pictured left to right, Michelle Hunter, Margaret Vincent, CSJ '85 (Member of Fr. Médaille Society) and Jeanne Janssen, CSJ (Member of Fr. Médaille Society).*





# An Iconic Shift

**M**arie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., announced that her 45th year as a faculty member/director/leader at Avila University will be her last.

"We are completing a new core curriculum which will be launched in fall 2015," S. Marie said. "We are a strong, vibrant university. I have had the privilege of being part of this wonderful institution for 45 years. I know the difference we make in students' lives, and I'm proud of the quality of the faculty, staff and learning environment that we have created. It's time to let someone else have an opportunity to lead this institution into the next 100 years."

It marks the end of an era that began in 1970, when S. Marie began her career as an assistant professor of chemistry. She would go on to become an associate professor of chemistry, chairperson for the Department of Natural Science and Mathematics, vice president and dean for academic affairs and provost and vice president for academic affairs.

S. Marie received the Medal of Honor in 1982 and was named Professor of the Year at Avila in 1985. She received the Chief Academic Officer Award from the Council of Independent Colleges in 2003.

After taking some much-deserved time off, S. Marie plans on a smooth transition into the next stage of her life, which will include continuing the work and mission of the Sisters – to serve the dear neighbor without distinction.

"I plan to stay in Kansas City and take some time to relax, read, and get a little more exercise," she said. "Since I am fortunate to have energy and good health, I hope to find ways to continue to contribute through Board work, volunteer activities and opportunities that may just surprise me." 🏠

In honor of S. Marie's steadfast belief in the power of higher education and her unwavering commitment to students, an endowed scholarship has been established in her name.

The **Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Scholarship** will provide scholarships for students with the greatest need. Avila University alumna Jeanne Patterson '80 has agreed to match up to \$50,000 in contributions to this fund.

Please join us in honoring S. Marie by supporting her scholarship fund. Contributions can be made online at [www.avila.edu/give](http://www.avila.edu/give) or mailed to S. Marie Scholarship, c/o Advancement Department, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145.

## Donors + Scholars



*Pictured, recipients with Tom McCullough and Bill Waris' son, Tim. (left to right): junior Tyler Smith, senior Keith Taylor, junior Sedrick Johnson, Tim Waris, President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, senior William Murillo, Tom McCullough, freshman Jimmy DeKraai, sophomore Jake Allen and senior Rebekah Capeder.*

**T**he "Meet the Scholar" Luncheon was hosted in October to bring together students and those donors that help make their education possible. At this year's Scholarship Luncheon, fourteen endowed scholarships were represented.

The **Bill Waris Endowed Scholarship** was established in memory of long time head men's basketball coach, Bill Waris, by Tom McCullough and the Waris family. This scholarship is awarded to a basketball player in good academic standing. Twelve students were awarded for the 2014-2015 academic year. 🏠



# A Distinguished Man

Laughing and crying with a Lost Boy  
at the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series



Alephonsion “Alepho” Deng, co-author of the book, *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The true story of three Lost Boys from Sudan*, and the featured speaker of the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series, held an audience of about 400 in his large hands for more than an hour this October with stories of how he and thousands of other children escaped their war-ravaged country. The book was selected for the First Year Experience Common Reading Program; therefore, all first-year students read it and wrote reflection papers.

Many of Deng’s stories were heartbreaking and harrowing as, at a very young age, he walked more than a thousand miles across Sudan fleeing the militias of murderers destroying everything they could village to village.

“As we walked, every village we came through looked like a battlefield and smelled like blood,” he said in an almost hushed voice. “I saw all this as a 10-year-old.”

A few of his stories were humorous, especially when he talked about his assimilation into a more modern, American culture. One story that drew the most laughs of the evening was one of Deng figuring out how to work the door to get out of a restroom on an airplane. “I believed I was going to step out and fall out of the plane,” he said. “Here I’d survived all these struggles, and I was going to die falling out of an airplane.”

In the end, through the tears of laughter and sorrow, those on hand came away with one overriding sensation – inspiration.

“If you’re going to make a difference in life, you have to go through many tests,” Deng told his audience. “You have to give it the best you’ve got.” 🇸🇩

ABOVE: Featured speaker Alepho Deng held a near-capacity audience in Goppert Theatre enthralled for more than an hour with his stories of escaping war-torn Sudan. RIGHT: Deng posed for pictures with event sponsor Bank of Blue Valley President and CEO Bob Regnier and Avila President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA.



## 2014 Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series Committee Members

Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D.  
*Committee Chair*

Bailey Carr '09, '12, MA, CSJA

Robert Foulk

Angie Heer, CFRE

Paige Illum, Ph.D.

Ann O'Meara, MBA





# Sargeant Speaks

Fundraising summit inspires full house in Goppert

About 450 fundraising professionals received a veritable smorgasbord of information about their industry at the Inspired Fundraising Summit 2014, hosted by the Hartsook Institute for Fundraising Management at Avila University and Hartsook Companies, held Aug. 14 in Goppert Theatre.

Attendees learned about fundraising research during a stirring and entertaining presentation from world-renowned fundraising expert Adrian Sargeant, Ph.D. (*photo above*) – as well as from philanthropists Henry Bloch '77 (Hon.), Jeanne Hamilton Olofson '92, '94, '11 (Hon.), and William Dunn Sr. '90 (Hon.) (*photo below*).

"We need to engineer a fundamental shift in the way we think about donors," said Sargeant, a former Hartsook chair in fundraising at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University and a visiting Hartsook professor at Avila. "For instance, giving social infor-

mation to donors increases their gift by 10 percent."

Philanthropists Bloch, Olofson, and Dunn Sr. discussed personal stories of what it has meant to them to give back to their communities. Olofson, who has received three degrees from Avila, discussed her love for the University and the improvements her contributions have helped bring about.

"When I donate to an organization, they also get me," she said. "I want to be involved in the organizations I believe in."

All three panelists pointed out that no donation is too small to not be recognized.

"From a \$100 donation to \$1 million, it all adds up to success," Dunn Sr. said.

After the panel discussion, Avila President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA, awarded Bob Hartsook, JD, Ed.D., founder and major benefactor of the Hartsook Institute at Avila and chairman of Hartsook Companies, the first Presidential Philanthropy Medal (*right*). 🏆



The Inspired Fundraising Summit was presented by Avila University and Avila's Hartsook Institutes for Fundraising in partnership with Nonprofit Connect and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Nationwide, Avila is one of three institutions to offer a master's in management with an emphasis in fundraising. The University plans on delivering the program online in 2015 to make it available to a broader audience.





# Talon Grabs Media Awards

Staff brings home six awards from MCMA conference



Members of the Talon Media Network brought home six awards from the Missouri Collegiate Media Association (MCMA) 2014 Annual Conference that ranged across the media spectrum.

Talon staffers won awards in writing, photography, advertising, illustration and publication design. Competing against William Jewell College, Southwest Baptist University, Park Uni-

versity, Culver-Stockton College, Evangel University and Missouri Valley College - Talon staffers captured first and third places in Story + Illustration, first and second places in Info Graphics, second in Feature Photography and second in Regular Columns.

Talon advisor J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., professor of advertising, branding and strategic media, said the wide range of areas of awards won made this year's conference special for the Talon team.

"This year's awards are extra special because the team focused on transitioning from typical newspaper style and coverage to more of a digest magazine, feature-oriented publication, and the Talon's new look especially stood out among the competition," Snorgrass said. 🏆

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*Talon Staff members pictured are (left to right) Deborah Jones, Nic Yonter, Kris Moore, and Colbi Howser, editor-in-chief.*



# Reaching the Summit

Higher education leaders gather to discuss the future

“If you’re going to change the system, make sure you are changing it for the right reasons.”

Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

It was a summit of college and university presidents and administrators from throughout Kansas and Missouri. The 15th Annual *Ingram’s* Higher Education Industry Outlook program drew 21 top administrators of Kansas and Missouri higher education to Avila University’s Thornhill Gallery for an afternoon of conversation.

Avila President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, chaired the assembly. Also attending was S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., Avila provost and vice president for academic affairs.

During the assembly, it was agreed that institutions had to work hard to maintain distinctiveness and autonomy in an environment that increasingly demanded

uniformity. Also, that they maintain enough freedom to remain economically viable and true to their missions.

Slepitz spoke of one of Avila’s greatest assets being its diversity, which ranges among traditional and non-traditional students. That rich diversity of experiences “adds to the conversation and helps students see the connections between what they need to be doing, what they desire to do and what’s expected of them in the work force,” he said in an *Ingram’s* article that ran after the roundtable.

The roundtable discussion was followed by a reception honoring the 2014 *Ingram’s* Icons of Education, which included Avila’s own S. Marie. 🏆



1. President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, chatted with Richard Simpson, Ed.D., of Kansas University during a break at the 15th Annual *Ingram’s* Higher Education Industry Outlook. 2. Recipients of the 2014 *Ingram’s* Icons of Education who attended were, left to right: Jerry Davis, Ph.D., College of the Ozarks; Michael Droge, Ph.D., Park University; John Rich, Ph.D., Emporia State University; Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D., Avila University; Leo Morton, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Dale Cushinberry, Highland Park High School; and Simpson.





# Upward and Onward

## Upward Bound director assumes leadership role

*Upward Bound director Anna McDonald (third from left) pictured at a recent event with Nick Gray, Upward Bound director at Indiana University Fort Wayne, Jacob Conklin, assistant director Upward Bound at Beloit College, and Hien Studniski, TRIO SSS advisor/tutor coordinator at St. Cloud Technical & Community College.*

Avila's director of Upward Bound (UB), Anna McDonald, was recognized as an inductee into MOKAN-NE UB's Emerging Leaders Institute. The Emerging Leaders Institute is a year-long leadership development program designed to inspire and cultivate strong leadership within the association. The program combines professional development, networking opportunities and hands-on experience to prepare prospective leaders for greater involvement in the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) and its respective chapters.

"I am extremely excited to be part of the Emerging Leader Institute class of 2014," McDonald said. "I have already learned so much about MAEOPP and my leadership skills that I cannot wait to see what is next for our class."

The Avila UB program serves students at Grandview and Ruskin High schools in the Kansas City area. Students who participate attend weekly tutoring sessions and a monthly Saturday study session. 📖



# Nurturing Creativity

Avila professor inducted  
into National Teachers Hall of Fame

“It takes an education community to allow a teacher to reach his or her full potential.”

**J**an Alderson has been an adjunct professor at Avila University, where she teaches special methods biology, since 2008. Her fulltime position is an honors biology teacher at Shawnee Mission South High School, where she also teaches human anatomy and physiology, and sponsors the research team, Raider Researchers.

On June 13, Alderson became the latest inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kan.

“It takes an education community to allow a teacher to reach his or her full potential,” Alderson said. “With the support of the public and private sectors, an educator will more likely reach excellence in teaching. Every student, colleague, parent and community con-

nection who was a part of my science programs owns a part of the NTHF award.”

When asked what she hopes will come from the honor, she said her biggest wish would be for it to translate into an opportunity to positively affect a student’s education, whether it be at Shawnee Mission South or at Avila University.

“I just think Avila is one of the best universities around,” Alderson said. “They care about the students. You’re not just a number.”

Alderson’s perspective on teaching is truly inspirational, and even with such a high honor awarded to her, her outlook for an even brighter future is shown through her words and more importantly through the incredibly positive effects she has on her students. 🌟



## Avila in the Big Apple

President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, and Keith Jaloma, director of major gifts **1**, traveled to New York City in late September to attend the annual meeting of the Bill Clinton Global Initiative **2** which culminated with the awarding of the Hult Prize, a \$1 million award given annually to a team of college social entrepreneurs and founded by Avila graduate Ahmad Ashkar '04. While in the city, President Slepitz and Jaloma also met with Avila theatre alumna, Joy Donze '09. **3**



# Awarding Advantage

Road to graduation is awards-filled  
for Avila Advantage student



**K**atrina Stansbury '14 rounded out her undergraduate career at Avila University in style.

Stansbury, who when she's not excelling in her corporate communications classes in the Avila Advantage adult education program works as a learning management systems administrator at the University, took home three major awards prior to graduating.

*"As an adult student, you sacrifice a lot at night, especially when you have a family. This makes it all seem worthwhile."*

- She, along with classmates and team members Rachel Robinson and Shawn Lundquist, won the Quills Student Award from the Kansas City branch of the International Association of Business Communicators for their marketing plan for Universal Technologies, a systems installation company in Lee's Summit, Mo.
- Stansbury won a Hermes Creative Award, honorable mention, for an event she created for the Kansas City Zoo called "Zoo Guru." It was a project for her community relations practicum course. The Hermes Creative Awards are an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional materials and programs, and emerging technologies.
- Stansbury also won a 2014 Clarion, an international award from the Association for Women in Communications for her "Zoo Guru" project.

"Winning is a huge surprise and honor," said Stansbury. "It wrapped it all up. As an adult student, you sacrifice a lot at night, especially when you have a family (she is a married mother of three). This makes it all seem worthwhile."

Far from finished, Stansbury is currently working toward a master's degree in management instructional design and technology. 🎓

**Avila Advantage** offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and Graduate Certificate Programs designed with flexibility for the working adult. The program features accelerated classes, flexible schedules and professional, real-world instructors. Avila University offers an Alumni Tuition Discount that can be used by Advantage Graduate students. Call 816.501.3737 or go to [avila.edu/advantage](http://avila.edu/advantage) for details.

*Avila Advantage programs are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*



**Mary McKay, CSJ, Ph.D.** (*above left*) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Sept. 8, 1968. After earning a bachelor of arts with a major in English in 1968 from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles, she went on to receive her master of arts in formative spirituality from Duquesne University and doctorate in theology from the University of Notre Dame. After teaching in CSJ-sponsored schools early in her career, she returned to her alma mater in 1983 as assistant to the director of the graduate program in Religious Studies. She currently is an assistant/associate professor of Religious Studies at Mount St. Mary College, where she has served two stints on the board of trustees. S. Mary was the provincial superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles Province, from 2004-10.

**Irene O'Neill, CSJ, Ed.D.** (*above center*) is the principal foundation officer of the Ministries Foundation, which funds programs of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet that serve communities for the poor. She has grown the Ministries Foundation from zero funds to nearly \$15 million in the past few years. For her philanthropic endeavors, she was recognized as a "Woman to Watch" by the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal* and has



gained recognition as "The Blogging Nun" for her efforts in communicating the work of the Foundation with the outside world. A native of Roseville, Minn., she is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and a former elementary school teacher before achieving master's and doctorate degrees in educational leadership. She joined the CSJ community in 1985.

**Vercie Lark** (*above right*) is chief information and technology officer for DST Systems in Kansas City, Mo., where he has been employed since 2010. He was recruited by DST to establish a global IT vision/strategy that positions DST for the future, both through marketing and advertising and new product innovation. Since arriving, he has implemented strategies that have significantly improved DST's productivity, delivered new systems capabilities and optimized IT functions. He also is leading DST's Global IT Sourcing team in India and Thailand. Prior to his time at DST, Lark was employed at CenturyLink as vice president and chief information officer and served in several IT-based roles over a 16-year period at Hewlett-Packard. He received his bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where he today serves on the Technology Advisory Board.



# On Board

## Avila welcomes three to Board of Trustees

**M**ary McKay, CSJ, Ph.D., Irene O'Neill, CSJ, Ed.D., and Vercie Lark are the newest members of Avila University's Board of Trustees, the University announced recently.

"We're thrilled to have S. Mary McKay, S. Irene O'Neill and Vercie Lark join Avila University's Board of Trustees," said Avila President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA. "The addition of two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet further strengthens the bond we've shared with our founding community for nearly 100 years. And the dedication and excellence these three have demonstrated consistently in their fields makes them a perfect fit for our board. We look forward to their input and many years of productive work on behalf of our University." 📖



FEATURE STORY







*The Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex provides sparkling new microbiology, chemistry and general science labs giving nursing, radiologic science, kinesiology and pre-health students the technologies and equipment necessary to prepare future healthcare leaders.*

## Thank You

to all who contributed to make these inspired spaces possible. Special thanks to the following donors, many of whom helped establish a named space in the Learning Commons and Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex.

Don & Christine Alexander  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
of Kansas City  
DST Systems, Inc.  
Fahey Family Foundation  
Joseph & Susan Fahey  
Thomas J. Fritzlen, M.D.  
The Goppert Foundation  
Kenneth V. & Marilyn J. Hager  
Robert F. Hartsook, JD, Ed.D.  
Robert & Michelle Hunter  
The J.E. & L.E. Mabey Foundation  
J.E. Dunn Construction Company  
Massman Foundation  
The McCullough Family Foundation  
The McDonnell Foundation  
The McGee Foundation  
Tom Olofson & Jeanne Hamilton  
Olofson '92, '94, '11  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
Ronald Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA  
& Suzanne Slepitz  
The Sunderland Foundation  
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and David W. Frantze, trustees  
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Tom & Geraldine Zarda

# Inspired Spaces

A summer of campus renovations provide students dynamic places for collaboration and transformational learning

**W**hat was billed as a dedication and grand opening turned into an evening of celebration and an opportunity to give thanks as Avila University commemorated the new Learning Commons and Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex.

## The walls came down

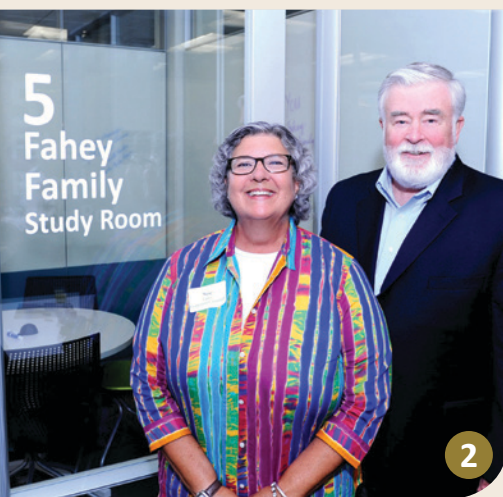
About five months earlier, dignitaries, including administrators and board members, wielded hammers and knocked holes in an existing wall of Hooley-Bundschu Library. For the dedication and grand opening, more than 250 crowded into Orscheln Chapel to receive a welcome from Angie Heer, vice president of advancement and external relations, and

hear words from Avila Board Chairman Bob Hunter, Avila President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, Sisters Rita Marie Schmitz, Ph.D., Patricia Johnson and the namesake of the Science & Health Complex, Avila Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D.

"Two years ago, we started this campaign, and to arrive at this point is really, really exciting," Hunter said.

More than 17,750 square feet of the existing Hooley-Bundschu Library was renovated into a Learning Commons complete with the latest technologies, support and environment allowing students to excel. In addition to 60 laptop computers, 16 desktops and three high-performance printers, learning spaces are student-centered, adaptable and encourage collaboration.





1. The CSJ Historical Wall documents the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, from their journey from Le Puy, France to the U.S. in the early 1800s to today. 2. Sue and Joe Fahey in the doorway of the Fahey Family Study Room in the Learning Commons. 3. Fr. Keith Branson blessed the new facilities during a dedication ceremony on the quad. 4. Supporters looked with interest at one of the interactive screens on the historical wall. 5. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. and Patricia Johnson, CSJ, executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, pose with S. Marie's portrait in the Harris Science and Health Complex.







1

Much of O’Rielly Hall was refurbished, complete with new microbiology, chemistry and general science labs.

“Students had their first view of these facilities this morning,” Slepitz said to the crowd, “and to say that they were blown away is really an understatement. Truly, the spaces are transformational.”

## *“Knowing and learning is what happens in these spaces”*

### **Honoring our heritage**

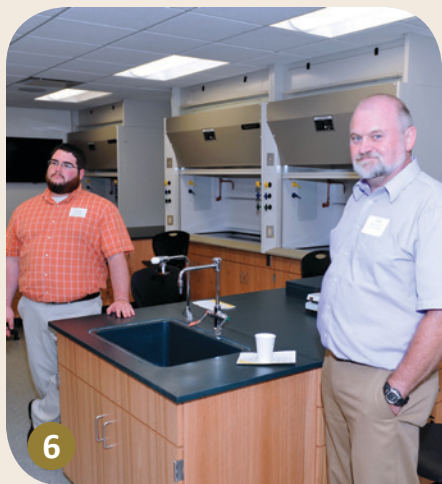
The 15 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who were on hand especially were excited and enthused about the Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D. Archives & Research Center, located inside the Learning Commons, that houses the archives of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Avila’s Women Religious Collections and the official Avila University archives.

“When the CSJs were looking for a place to house our archives, we looked at many

prestigious colleges and universities around the nation,” S. Patty said. “However, our imagination was captured by S. Marie Joan Harris, who offered Avila University for the Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D. Archives and Research Center, not as a final resting place for our important papers. She offered an archives that could be a dynamic archive to spread our mission and be integrated into the Sisters of St. Joseph heritage, spiritual-ity and service initiative at Avila.”

S. Marie told the audience that the day was a celebration of learning. We all are most God-like when we know and when we love, she said, and “knowing and learning is what happens in these spaces.”

“I am honored to be associated with the Science & Health Complex,” she said. “I came to Avila as a chemistry professor with no idea that the next 45 years of my life would be at this ministry. I am daily blessed to be here among so many wonderful people with the opportunity to make a difference in this world, for all that we do for all the students whom we touch.”



6

**6.** Student Austin Armstrong and physics professor Jim Johnson in one of the new chemistry labs. **7.** Richard Teahan and family in the JoAnn Judy Teahan '56 Instrumentation Lab.



7





# Pitch Perfect

Music theatre major thrived in first year

**A**rianna Bartolotta said she's been singing and acting for as long as she can remember. In fact, she's been told by her parents she started singing before she could talk.

Bartolotta is still singing and acting today as a sophomore musical theatre major at Avila University. And, she couldn't be happier.

"I love it here, because I have friends not just in theatre, but in other majors as well," said the outgoing, effervescent Bartolotta, a native of St. Louis, who exudes a personality that practically cries out "actress" with every word she speaks. "At other schools, you have students who stick with their peer groups. It's nice that you know everybody here."

After participating in community theatre while she was in grade school

and playing a role in multiple productions at her high school, it's hard to believe Bartolotta was thinking of pursuing a different major when she came to Avila.

"I was thinking of being a communications major," she said. "But once I got here and saw what a wonderful program the theatre department had, it made me fall in love with theatre all over again. Then, I was going to double major in film and musical theatre. But, I wanted to focus mostly on acting.

"It's what I love."

Last spring, Bartolotta starred in her biggest role yet – as one of the leads in the Avila Theatre Department's musi-

cal production of the classic, *9 to 5*. She absolutely shined as Doralee, the role made famous by country music legend Dolly Parton in the 1980 movie.

"I love that they gave a chance to a freshman to be a lead," she said. "A lot of schools won't do that."

Bartolotta also participates in Campus Ministry. It can be a bit tricky fitting in everything with her theatre responsibilities, she said, but it's an important element of her collegiate experience.

"I'm glad I'm doing both, because faith has always been important," she said. "I wanted a big faith-based presence. I find a way to balance both." 🎭

*"I love that they gave a chance to a freshman to be a lead. A lot of schools won't do that."*



# Acting Up

It wasn't long after Andy Perkins '09 first set foot on the Avila University campus that he knew he wouldn't be carrying on a family tradition. Perkins grew up in a family that loved the large, state school in his home state and had a lot of history firmly entrenched in Columbia, Mo.

But, when it came to deciding on a college for himself, he knew the instant he visited Avila that carrying on that family tradition wasn't going to be for him.

"When I visited Avila, right away, I was greeted very warmly," Perkins said. "Other students were there to show me around. It just made me feel good about being there."

Perkins earned his bachelor of fine arts in acting and directing from Avila in December of 2009 and now is putting that degree, along with the master of fine arts he received from Purdue University in 2013, to good use. Last summer, he appeared in the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival's production of "The Winter's Tale" playing the role of Clown. After that, he toured with a theatre company called Art Spot, which took him to Chile, Argentina and Mexico performing a show designed to help children improve their abilities to speak the English language.

When he's not acting, Perkins stays busy teaching acting at camps for the Shakespeare Festival and at the Coterie



*"I was able to apply what I was learning in the classroom directly to the stage, which was incredibly helpful."*

Theatre. He's taught for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre and worked with The KC Improv Co. He also taught a workshop called "Improvising Honestly" at the Fish-tank Performance Studio and has acted and stage managed there.

Perkins said the acting bug first bit him in high school, but it was at Avila that it really flourished.

"I just remember the training at Avila was excellent," Perkins said. "The great thing about it being a smaller school is that there was plenty of opportunity for everyone. I got into all four shows my freshman year. That's training in itself. I was able to apply what I was learning in the classroom directly to the stage which was incredibly helpful." 🐾



# Caring More

Social work alum receives prestigious award



**G**iven her background, forging a career in social work was practically preordained for Jennifer Cardinal '10.

Canadian by birth, she spent most of her formative years in South Africa before moving to the U.S. and then the Kansas City area in the late 1990s. During her young life and travels, she saw various societies – and, the issues that come with them – as well as a myriad of lifestyles from opposite ends of the Earth and places in between.

"I grew up in South Africa during Apartheid, and here I was sort of this punk kid in the '80s," Cardinal said. "It was like living in the Deep South with the Jim Crow laws.

"My grandfather was a philanthropist. I had an aunt that was a social worker who became a lawyer and now is an ombudsman.

"I grew up with an understanding of poverty. I learned through my parents' examples that you can't fix the whole thing, but you can have an impact on individuals."


Cardinal, who graduated from Avila University with a bachelor's in social work as Jennifer Muench in 2010, has

put those understandings to practical use in her efforts in social work and recently was recognized for that work. She received the Caring More Award from Crossroads Hospice, a chain of hospice care facilities in seven states across the U.S., presented to outstanding social workers who go above and beyond to improve lives through their work with patients and in their communities.

The award includes a \$500 prize to the charity of the recipient's choice; Cardinal selected the Rose Brooks Center, a domestic violence shelter.

Avila played a big part in her career. After being recruited by Lindee Petersen Wilson, assistant professor of social work, she fully immersed herself in Avila's small class sizes and personalized, real-life experiences.

She was a two-time recipient of the Women's Studies Scholarship at Avila, was named a Distinguished Scholar Award recipient at Student Scholar Day in 2010 and was the Social Work Department's Dorothy Gallagher Award recipient in 2010.

Cardinal went on to earn her master's in social work from Kansas University. 

*Jennifer Cardinal accepts the Caring More award alongside her children, Sara Muench (left), Jonathan and Stephen Muench (right).*



## Voices

### Avila's Social Network

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it's called the present."

*Twitter #inspiredfundraising*  
**Henry Bloch '77 (Hon.)**

"You all should be very proud of both new facilities – they are top notch and perfectly embody everything we have come to know about Avila." *via email*

**Angelo Trozzolo,**  
president and CEO,  
Trozzolo Communications Group

"People are really helpful and friendly. I was dreading going back to school. But the admissions counselors really eased my doubts and fears by making my enrollment process as easy and simple as counting from one to three." *Facebook review*

"Beyond Super! Alepho's hosts at Avila University described his featured keynote at this year's Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series. Packed house ... Standing Ovation! Congratulations, Alepho Deng. YOU ROCK!" *Twitter, Jeff Salz*

"Big thanks to the folks from the Truman State Newman Center and Avila University for staying with us this week! We had a blast with all of them and they built a porch in only two days!" *Twitter, Jerusalem Farm*






# Seoul Food

In May, eight students with varying ethnic and cultural backgrounds, along with Dotty Hamilton, Ph.D., dean of the School of Visual and Communication Arts, and Eric Winter, professor of graphic design, spent eight days eating their way to a greater knowledge of Korean culture.

Avila's interdisciplinary course, IS 366 Food and Culture, draws upon expertise from the disciplines of communication and graphic design to study the role of food in society as a system of intercultural communication that carries messages about status, gender, ethnicity, religion, and identity.

The travelers kept a blog to share culinary highlights and offer reflections of their week-long Korean adventure. The course was awarded the 2013 Clarion Award for Curriculum Design from the Association for Women in Communications. 



- 1.** Outside of Jogyesa Temple, the center of Zen Buddhism in South Korea. (left to right) Yanda Ao, Grace Stanton, Brittnee Jordan, (in back) Erin Adair, Stephanie Cruz, Cecilia Nunez, Kelsey Kattau, Addison Rhea. **2.** Experiencing a 10-course vegan meal in the tradition of Korean Buddhism **3.** A typical Korean breakfast of spicy pork and vegetable soup with rice. There is little differentiation between breakfast, lunch and dinner foods **4.** Searching for bargains in Namdaemun Market, the oldest and largest market in South Korea **5.** With a tour guide at Gyeongbokgung, Seoul's most prominent palace.



*“I can honestly say I did a ‘180’  
and am now the person I was meant to be.”*

# Realizing Her Dream

**W**hen Rachael Beard '14 was a little girl, she remembers following her mother, a nurse practitioner, around on her rounds at Cox Hospital in Springfield, Mo. and dreaming of being just like her one day.

“I’ve dreamed of being a nurse since I was five years old,” she said. “I can remember my mom teaching me how to take a blood pressure when I was in the fourth grade. I would come to the hospital after school and stay with my mom until she was done working.

“Nursing is all I’ve ever known.”

Beard received her bachelor of science in nursing and delivered a stirring commencement address as Avila’s 2014 Ariston Award honoree as top student in her graduating class.

Beard is on track for her first full-time job as a nurse at Cox Hospital after an internship.

Beard said Cox will get a different person working for them than the shy, introverted young girl she was four years ago.

“I graduated high school with a class of 69 students, and we all knew one another,” she said. “I was not invited to parties, and I was not a so-called popular person. I played volleyball, and that was about it. At Avila, I was involved in Campus Ministry. I was a mentor, in the Avila Student Nursing Organization, in Psych Club (she minored in psychology), and I actively attended sporting and theater events on campus.

“I put myself out there and now have friends from every background here. My senior year, I was nominated for homecoming queen. I can honestly say I did a ‘180’ and am now the person I was meant to be.

“I can’t imagine where I would be right now if I hadn’t attended Avila. In fact, I don’t want to think about it, because that would mean I would have never met so many amazing people that I plan to always keep in my life.” 📺



*Rachael Beard addresses her fellow Class of 2014 graduates during Commencement in May.*



# A Healthy Start

Prestigious pre-health honor society established at Avila

AED inductees were: Adam Adler, Dayton Antley, Austin Armstrong (treasurer), Hannah Baum, Tela Beaver, Jordan Burns, Tracie Geile, Matthew Graham, Jessica Gustafson, Michael Hudson (president), Jacqueline Jimenez (historian), Benjamin Koerner, Taylor Lind (vice president), Kelsey McConnell, Alexsus Mers, Viviana Ortiz, Haley Padgett, Zak Reneau, Anthony Spalitto, Alitha Stamer, Pedro Vargas, Emily Volker, Anna Woods (secretary) and ShaKaila Wright (Scalpel reporter).

Avila University became the only institution of higher education in the Kansas City and surrounding areas to house a chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, an honor society for pre-health students, when the Missouri Zeta Chapter was installed during a ceremony held in the Whitfield Conference Room.

The Missouri Zeta Chapter became the 223rd chapter of AED in the U.S. The only chapter in Kansas is at Kansas State University in Manhattan, while Missouri has chapters at the University of Missouri in Columbia, St. Louis University, Central Methodist in Fayette, and Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau.

A total of 24 Avila pre-health students were inducted into the first class of the Missouri Zeta Chapter during a ceremony which included welcoming remarks from chapter president Michael Hudson, a presentation about the society from AED National Treasurer, Dr. Don Schreiweis and member-at-large Donna Nonnenkemp, and an impassioned speech from guest speaker Dr. Michael Woods, M.D., FACOG.

According to Schreiweis, AED is “dedicated to the pursuit and recognition of excellence in pre-professional healthcare scholarship.” The organization’s motto is “Truth I Pursue” and, befitting Avila’s mission, service is a critical component. 🩺

*Michael Hudson is president of the Missouri Zeta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, an honors society for pre-health students that was launched at Avila last spring. Larry Sullivan, Ph.D., dean of the School of Science & Health, serves as faculty advisor.*





# Serving Our World

Professors visit CSJ communities in South America

Three Avila University professors made new and exciting discoveries during a 17-day trip to South America, yet also found something they pretty much expected – the Sisters of St. Joseph do the same good work of serving the dear neighbor without distinction wherever they are located.

The three professors – Carol Coburn, Ph.D., professor of religious studies and women's and gender studies and director of the CSJ Heritage Center at Avila, Ken Parsons, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and director for the Center

for Global Studies & Social Justice, and Teresa Lorenz, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish – traveled to Bolivia, Peru and Argentina visiting CSJ communities to learn more about them and explore future prospects for Avila students.

Parsons said it was the first time representatives from a CSJ-sponsored university in the U.S. had made such a trip.

"We went there to find out what they were doing," Coburn said, "and look for opportunities for faculty and students to come down on service trips and learn about the culture."

Coburn, Lorenz and Parsons paved a path for students to learn at these South American CSJ communities in the future.

"There are a lot of opportunities for our students," Lorenz said. "I can't think of a field where students couldn't serve."

Parsons said, "This was a way to establish a relationship between the CSJs in South America and Avila."

Another CSJ-related, Avila interdisciplinary course will travel to India in March 2015 and will connect with a CSJ community in the city of Madurai. 🇮🇳

To see pictures, video and hear audio interviews from the South American trip, go to [global.avila.edu](http://global.avila.edu).

*Teresa Lorenz, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish (second from left), and Carol Coburn, Ph.D., CSJA, (third from left) professor of religious studies and women's and gender studies, made friends during visits to Sisters of St. Joseph communities in South America.*



# Up, Up and Away!

Flying to victory for charity



*Representatives from Jerusalem Farm and Avila were big winners at the U.S. Bank Midwest Charity Challenge hot-air balloon race, winning \$5,000 for J-Farm. (Left to right) Jeff Schiele, Brooke Koenig, Jordan Schiele, Jessie Schiele, Zack Schiele, Kelly Armstrong, Dave Armstrong, CSJA, Avila's director of mission effectiveness and campus ministries.*

Jerusalem Farm (J-Farm) and Avila University flew to victory as the hot-air balloon they sponsored won the U.S. Bank Midwest Charity Challenge hot-air balloon race at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan.

For winning, J-Farm, the Catholic intentional community in Kansas City, Mo. and sponsored by Avila the past two years, received \$5,000 to use toward its mission.

It's the latest in what's been a busy year for J-Farm. To date, the staff has hosted 192 week-long service participants and worked with more than 20 area homeowners on repair projects. During the summer months alone, J-Farm volunteers painted six houses. The highlight was building a kitchen for a veteran on Troost Ave. who had been living the past 17 years without one. Project volunteers included Avila students, high schoolers from around Kansas City, from Bishop Miege in Roeland Park, Kan., Chicago and California.

For more information on J-Farm, go to [www.jerusalemfarm.org](http://www.jerusalemfarm.org), or donations can be mailed to Jerusalem Farm, 520 Garfield Ave., Kansas City, Mo. 64124. 📧



# Prairie Home Companions



Students explore Kansas' Konza Prairie from scientific and literary perspectives



Eleven Avila University students spent three days in the middle of October walking around and looking at the Konza Prairie in the central Kansas Flint Hills.

But, it was far more educational than that.

This was a project for the Interdisciplinary Study course 365, Ecology Through the Writer's Lens, and the students had an opportunity to live at a world-class biological station. They also got to fully explore one of the last tall-grass prairies in the U.S. And, the assignment for the students was much more than one dimensional.

"The basic idea of the course is to take an ecosystem and explore it from both the scientific and literary/creative perspective," said Karin Gastreich, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, who was one of two faculty members who accompanied the students on their adventure. The other was Amy Milakovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of English.

The students participated in several different activities over the three days, with Gastreich focusing students on scientific method and Milakovic on the creative and literary perspective. Power of observation was critical for both disciplines. They were taken on a formal tour by scientists at the biological station and had ample opportunity to roam the prairie gazing at herds of bison and wild turkeys and deer.

The students, who ranged in majors from English, communications, biology, nursing and others, were tasked with putting together a wide variety of final projects for the class for presentations in December.

There were 11 different visions of what the students observed, Gastreich said.

"I was so happy with the experience," she said. "I think the students were astounded that we had such a jewel (as the Konza prairie) basically in our backyard." 📷

*A group of Avila students spanning several majors spent three days in October exploring all aspects of the Konza Prairie in central Kansas from both scientific and literary perspectives. The students observed and studied plant, animal and reptilian life during their stay and compiled that information into final projects of their choosing.*






# Going for Gould

Business students win \$10,000 award from DST

**F**our Avila University business students won first place in the Gould Scholastic Award competition, sponsored by DST Systems, Inc., for their project dealing with the issue of big data and its implications on today's businesses.

The students – Stephanie Steger, Brittani Ball, Shaun Kelly and Yehong Lyu – received an award of \$10,000

for the group and, in addition, \$2,000 will be awarded to Avila University. The students, who were in a fall 2013 undergraduate marketing class taught by Brian Buckler, Ph.D., were honored at an awards banquet.

The project dealt with the vast amount of information generated by marketers the last few years and looked at methods companies could use to leverage such information to their advantage. 

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*Gould Scholastic Award winners Brittani Ball and Shaun Kelly appear with Avila marketing professor, Brian Buckler, Ph.D. during the awards ceremony in May.*





# Events That Inspire



**A**lephonsion Deng's lecture about his experiences as a Sudanese Lost Boy was just the capper of what was nearly two weeks of activities surrounding the Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecture Series.

**1.** On Sept. 27, Avila alumni and members of the community gathered at the Athletic Pavilion to package rice meals for the STOP Hunger Now Project. In a small amount of time, the group packaged about 4,000 rice meals, which were to be distributed to impoverished and food-insecure countries around the world.

**2.** Two days later, Avila's first-year students and volunteers from Bank of Blue Valley, about 250 strong, met in the Athletic Pavilion and packaged more than 22,000 meals in less than an hour's time. That brought the total to more than 26,000 rice meals sent to impoverished countries.

**3.** On Oct. 6, Avila's first-year students, along with some staff and faculty members, participated in the Hunger Challenge, whereby they ate one rice meal – similar to those they packaged a week earlier – during a 24-hour period, showing solidarity and support for the trials of the Lost Boys and food insecure people.







4. First-year students volunteered at Harvesters – The Community Food Network based in Kansas City. 5. Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated each academic year. 6. The Ethnic Food and Culture Celebration is a campus favorite. 7. It was a bumpy blast in big hamster balls at this year's AU Kickoff. 8. The Department of English hosted its annual public reading of selected literature. "Satire Through the Ages" was this year's topic and featured such classics as *The Odyssey* and *The Canterbury Tales*. 9. Students discover many ways to get involved and make a difference at Avila's Volunteer Fair that featured many regional charitable organizations. 📌







## A look into *Los Seis*

Film professor investigates 40-year-old murder case

While working on an archiving project in conjunction with the Library of Congress, **Nicole Esquibel** stumbled upon an old story that she, at the time, had no idea how profoundly it would touch her. Or, how big a part it would play in her professional and personal life.

Forty years ago, a young woman named Neva Romero was one of six Chicano activists killed in two separate car bombings over two days in usually-peaceful Boulder, Colo. A police investigation ensued, but no one ever was charged with a crime, and some thought that the six activists, dubbed the *Los Seis de Boulder*, might actually have been the bombers and accidentally blown themselves up. Chicano groups deemed the investigation racist.

In looking into the case, Esquibel discovered that not only did she come from the same small Colorado town as Romero, but a relative of hers died in the car with Romero.

Esquibel is making a documentary about Romero, who was an honor student and homecoming queen at her high school. She hopes to have the film finished by the end of 2014. 📽

## Faculty Accomplishments

**Stan Banks**, assistant professor of English, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and **J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D.**, professor of advertising, branding & strategic media, in the School of Visual and Communication Arts, were included in the 2014 *Who's Who in Black Kansas City*, second edition.

**Amy Bucher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, co-authored a paper about the effect of written agency on student perceptions of personal and financial culpability and presented it at the Great Plains Psychology Conference at Rockhurst University.

**Brian Buckler, Ph.D.**, professor of business and director of undergraduate business development, in the School of Business, co-authored a paper entitled, "Consumers on a Mission: A Qualitative Study of an Ongoing Consumer Boycott." It was one in a series of papers on consumer boycotts. Buckler also gave two presentations at Belton High School entitled "Why Study Marketing?" and was a panelist for "Maximize Your Marketing," sponsored by Hunter Hamilton, finance and accounting recruiters.

**Carol Coburn, Ph.D., CSJA**, professor of religious studies and women's and gender studies, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and director of the CSJ Heritage Center at Avila, was invited to give the opening address for the Conference on Crossings and Dwellings: Restored Jesuits, Women Religious, American Experience, 1814-2014, at Loyola University Oct. 16 in Chicago. She presented her paper, "Crossing Boundaries and Cultural Encounters: Women Religious as Builders and Shapers of Catholic Culture and American Life."

**Jason Harris**, associate professor of theatre and director of technical theatre and design, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, directed scene design for a production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at the Kansas City Jewish Community Center.

**Teresa Lorenz, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Spanish, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, wrote an article entitled "La búsqueda de una figura paterna en Alsino y el cóndor y El espíritu de mi mamá," which appeared in the August publication of the Panamanian academic journal *Convivencia: Revista de Estudios culturales*. She also started Avila's new Latino literary magazine, *La voz*, sponsored by the Department of English & Foreign Languages.

**Steve Iliff, Ph.D.**, associate professor and dean of the School of Professional Studies, Avila Advantage, co-directed a working group that designed a national set of program goals, student learning outcomes and assessment measures for peace studies programs at the Reconstructing Peace Studies: Assessing New Knowledge and Outcomes conference at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa.

**Teresa McClain**, psychology lecturer in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and faculty support for Avila Advantage, continues working with SisterHeart, an on-campus student group she founded in 2009 that addresses the growing problem of sexual assault and rape on college campuses. Since it began, the group has sponsored self-defense classes and kick-boxing demonstrations to raise awareness of this issue. The group continues to grow, with several events being planned for this school year. 📽



*Pictured from top left:*

*Stan Banks, Carol Coburn, Ph.D., CSJA, Teresa McClain, and Brian Buckler, Ph.D.*



# Legacies Begin Here

Student-athlete finds place to fulfill all his passions

**A**s a boy growing up in Kansas, Patrick Moore wanted to be involved in everything and feel as though he was making difference. It only made sense that, when it came to choosing a university, he looked for a place where he could immerse himself in multiple activities and be impactful on them as well as have his own life impacted.

Moore is a junior majoring in acting, directing and producing, with a minor in marketing. He's an athlete – a 6-foot-3, 210-pound tight end redshirt sophomore on the Eagles football team. And, he's a campus leader. He recently was elected president of the University's Spanish-English Club and is involved with Campus Ministry.

He said he fully realizes that, as a football-playing theatre major, he's somewhat of a rarity on a college campus. To an outsider, athletics and performing arts might seem like strange bedfellows. For Moore, it's a natural progression.

"If you think about it, both are performance studies," he said. "In both, you're there to put on a show."

And, he said he couldn't have found a better place to have opportunities to pursue both interests than Avila University.

"Now, I'm inspired to make a change, leave an impact, a legacy. I believe if you want to do something, do it. And Avila is a place that will let you do it." 🏈

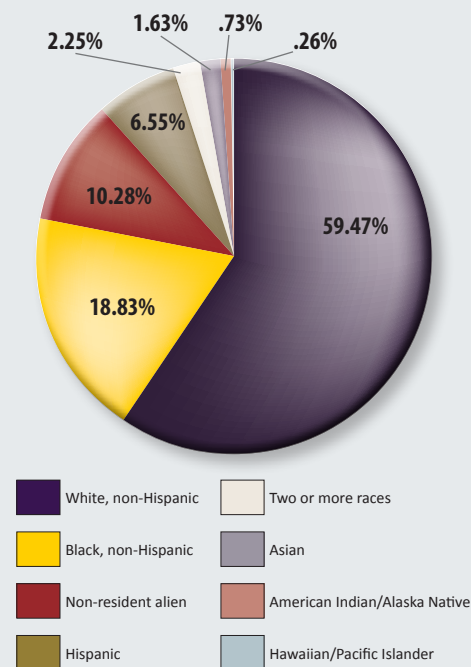
## AVILA

By the numbers



**Record number** of full-time undergraduate students for fall 2014, a 2.4 percent increase from fall 2013.

### Student Diversity



Avila Institutional Research, 9.24.2014



# Homecoming 2014

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**Mark your calendars for  
next year's Homecoming!  
Homecoming 2015  
is September 24-27.**

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**H**undreds of alumni returned to campus for 2014 Homecoming events and activities. Many enjoyed tours of the Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D. Science & Health Complex and the new Learning Commons. The Golden Girls of 1964 reminisced over past Teresians and archives photos while alumni from the class of 1989 shared stories at their 25th reunion. Sixteen alumni were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony, and the Heritage Society welcomed eight new members during the Heritage Mass and Luncheon.

## **Heritage Luncheon ►**

Members of the class of 1964 received their 50-year anniversary pins from President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D, CSJA, at the Heritage Luncheon - Front Row: Mary Alice Staggs Strannigan, Kathleen Hagerty Thorne, Kathleen Irving Green, Mary Bien Sharp, Janet Schmitz. Second Row: Sally Otto Merten, Kathryn Heine McIntyre, Martha Shumway Maher, Vicki Michaels Hanes, Kathleen Ann Glennon. Back Row: Rosemary Engel Fahlstrom, Judith Dillion Dowd, Mary Ruth Donnelly, Annette Nocita Craddock, Mary Ann Dunn Brown.



***Avila University Class of 1964  
50th Reunion - Sept 26, 2014***





## ◀ Heritage Luncheon

Left: Mimi Turpin Fassenmyer, class of 1949, receives her 65-year anniversary pin from President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA. Below: Ann Schorfheide, CSJ, Ph.D., from the class of 1954, receives her 60-year anniversary pin from President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA.



## 1989 Class Reunion ►

Classmates from the Class of 1989 gathered together and enjoyed reconnecting at the 1989 Class Reunion.

*Top row, left to right:*

Kerry Dugan Eckert, Michelle Graff, John Baldwin, Gary Matson, Gary Metzger, Angela Lynn Metzger.

*Seated, left to right:*

Lynn Baldwin, Carmen Canzonere Bisacca, Teresa Liston Sperry.



## Former Faculty and Staff Reception ►

President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CJSA visits with former staff member Norm Dexter.







### ▲ 1964 Class Reunion

Above: Mary Alice Strannigan '64 receives the Medal of Honor from President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA. Mary Alice had received this prestigious award in 1964, but unfortunately lost her medal. A few years ago, Mary Alice was staying at a small hotel in Kansas run by fellow alum Laura Greene '93. Laura proudly displays her own Medal of Honor in her hotel lobby. Mary Alice recognized Laura's Medal of Honor and shared with Laura that she also had earned this prestigious award from Avila in 1964, but had since lost it. Laura shared this special story with the Alumni Office and President Slepitzka awarded her a Medal of Honor (again) at the 1964 Class Reunion.

Left: Class President Vicki Michaels Hanes '64, poses with a copy of the Teresian where Vicki was featured as an Avila Queen candidate. Vicki helped organize the reunion for her classmates.



### ▲ Alumni Awards Luncheon

Nancy Seibolt, MD, '78 (*third from left*), poses with her family after receiving the 2014 School of Science and Health Alumni Award.



1989 Honored Class Alumni Awardee Carmen Canzonere Bisacca (*center*) with her family at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon.

## 2014 Alumni Award Honorees ►

*Back Row:*

**SHEILA (MCWILLIAMS) GILCHRIST '00,'04,'06**

2014 GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD

Teacher at Belton School District

*Belton, Mo.*

**RONALD HARLAND SR. '81**

2014 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ALUMNI AWARD

President & CEO at Evolv Solutions

*Olathe, Kan.*

**NANCY SEIBOLT, MD '78**

2014 SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH ALUMNI AWARD

Palliative Care Physician at Kaiser Permanente- Colorado

*Littleton, Colo.*

**WENDY (CONNELLY) KLINE '08,'09**

2014 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI AWARD

Assistant Principal at Independence Academy

*Independence, Mo.*

**ELLEN DUKES, CSJA, PH.D. '71**

2014 SCHOOL OF NURSING ACADEMIC AWARD

Scientific Consultant at Pfizer Global Pharmaceuticals

*Natick, Mass.*

**SUE (HAGERMAN) KING, PH.D. '79**

2014 HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD

Vice President for Information Services and Vice Provost for

Academic Affairs at Avila University

*Leawood, Kan.*

*Front Row:*

**CARMEN (CANZONERE) BISACCA '89**

2014 ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Teacher at Our Lady of the Presentation

*Lee's Summit, Mo.*

**AHMAD ASHKAR '04**

2014 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Founder and CEO of Hult Prize Foundation

*Annandale, Va.*

**MIKE KELLEY '85**

2014 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Vice President of External Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer

at YRC Worldwide

*Shawnee, Kan.*

**KATHLEEN (HEGARTY) THORNE '64**

2014 HONORED CLASS ALUMNI AWARD

Author

*Newberg, Ore.*



**BRENTLEY BRAZELL '08**

SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

ACADEMIC AWARD

Manager, Leadership Development at

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

*Fenton, Mo.*



**ZACHARY CHOATE '07**

SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND COMMUNICATIONS

ARTS ACADEMIC AWARD

Sports Reporter and Anchor at FOX 2 News

*St. Louis, Mo.*



**JOY DONZE '09**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND

SOCIAL SCIENCES ALUMNI AWARD

Actor/Singer

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*



**JULIE (MURPHY) GARWOOD '65**

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Novelist

*Shawnee Mission, Kan.*



**NICHOLAS WARD-BOPP '09**

RECENT ALUMNI AWARD

Financial Aide & Scholarship at UMKC

*Kansas City, Mo.*

Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes our outstanding alumni. If you would like information on attending the awards event or would like to nominate someone for the 2015 awards, please contact Bailey Carr, Director of Alumni and Annual Fund, at 816.501.3780 or by email at [bailey.carr@avila.edu](mailto:bailey.carr@avila.edu) or visit [www.avila.edu/alumni](http://www.avila.edu/alumni).



# Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

## WINE 101

Sponsored by Glazers/Isaiah Hultman '99  
Wine tasting and class led by sommelier.  
Opportunity to purchase wines at the event – just in time for holiday gifts and entertaining! Complimentary to attend, RSVP online or email [bailey.carr@avila.edu](mailto:bailey.carr@avila.edu).

FEBRUARY 7, 2015

## 39TH ANNUAL AVILA STEER

### DINNER & AUCTION

Kansas City Marriott Downtown,  
Muehlebach Tower

Buy your tickets! Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund for students at Avila University. Information about sponsorships and tickets at [www.avila.edu/steer](http://www.avila.edu/steer) or by calling Celeste Greenlee at 816.501.2450.

SPRING 2015 – Date to be announced

## PICNIC AT THE KANSAS CITY ZOO

Bring your families and join your fellow alumni for a date at the zoo. Watch for more details on the alumni website or on Avila University Alumni Association Facebook page!

SPRING 2015 – Date to be announced

## SPORTING KC TAILGATE

Sporting Park

Join your fellow alumni to cheer on Sporting KC. If you are a season ticket holder, you can still stop by the Avila Alumni Tailgate and enjoy food and drinks. Watch for more details on the alumni website or on Avila University's Alumni Association Facebook page!

**Find out about Alumni news and activities by following us on social media. The Alumni Association is on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We want to hear from you!**

**You can also sign up for alumni newsletters and special emails at [avila.edu/alumni](http://avila.edu/alumni) or by emailing [alumni@avila.edu](mailto:alumni@avila.edu).**



photos by Thomas Photographic

## ▲ 1940s Class Reunion and Luncheon

Alumni who graduated in the 1940s reconnected at a luncheon held on campus, July 18, 2014. Attendees: *Back Row* - Esther Burke Loschke '47, Helen Jane Gray Wald '46, Marie Henn Kissinger '49, Mary Elizabeth Hessel Heiman '47, President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, Marybeth Malsie Swartz O'Malley '47, Gloria Sutter Gerhardt '49 *Front Row* - Betty Morris Wagstaff '48, Mimi Turpin Fasenmyer '49, Rose Marie Carrollo Falco '47, Jean Male Collins '48, Maxine Keim Schlichter '49



## ▲ Class Alumni Partner Dinner

Class Alumni Partners (CAP) Ann Ott Ventrillo '72, Mary Wholey Hughes '62, and Carol Jean Stipetich DeFeo '68 enjoy reminiscing before the annual Class Alumni Partner Dinner. CAPs serve as ambassadors by promoting the interests of the university, its students and alumni in the community. They organize class volunteers and contact class members about upcoming reunions or alumni events. If you are interested in becoming a CAP, please contact the alumni office at 816.501.3780 or [alumni@avila.edu](mailto:alumni@avila.edu).

## 2014 Phonathon Update

Thank you to the more than 500 alumni who answered the call of the 2014 Fall Phonathon student callers and helped us raise more than \$40,000 for the Scholarship Fund! Did you miss our call? It is not too late to send in your annual fund gift this year! Contact Bailey Carr at 816.501.3780 for more information.

# Advancement News



## ▲ Avila Welcomes Two Additions to Fundraising Team

**Celeste Greenlee '14** is Avila University's senior director of development. Greenlee comes to Avila from Notre Dame de Sion, where over the past seven years she was associate head of school for advancement and enrollment, director of institutional advancement and director of capital campaign. She earned her master of arts in management, fundraising emphasis from Avila this year. As senior director of development, Greenlee is responsible for leading the strategy and implementation of alumni relations, among other duties. She leads the annual Steer Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 7, 2015. Tables are still available!

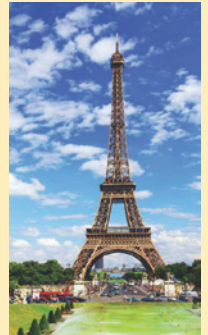


**Melissa Isaacs** is Avila University's director of corporate and foundation relations. Prior to coming to Avila, she worked at GOD TV in Overland Park, Kan. as a donor development project writer and partner relations representative. She has a bachelor of arts in psychology from Texas Woman's University in Denton and is near completion of her master of arts in management, fundraising emphasis, at Avila. She is responsible for identifying, cultivating, soliciting and stewarding corporate, foundation and government partners to assist in meeting Avila University's fundraising goals. 📧



## ▲ South KC Leaders

(from left) Dave Armstrong, CSJA, director of campus ministries and mission effectiveness, Deanna Nelson, senior director of development - major gifts, and Bailey Carr '09, '12, CSJA, director of alumni relations & annual fund, graduated as part of the Class of 2014 Leadership South Kansas City sponsored by the South KC Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the vitality of South Kansas City by providing a forum to educate participants about the uniqueness of the community and develop leadership abilities while preparing for leadership roles in the community. They are pictured here with Paul Bookmeyer, Avila's vice president for finance and administrative services and president of the South KC Chamber of Commerce. 📧

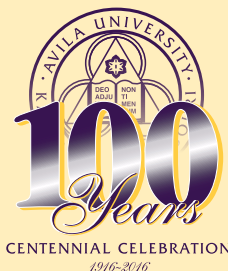


## Centennial Trip

Join us for the trip of a lifetime and a journey to celebrate Avila University's Centennial! It all takes place May 22-29, 2016.

The journey begins with three days in Paris, France, where you'll tour iconic sites such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe. Then, we'll continue by TGV train to Lyon, France, and finally, to Le Puy-en-Velay, where the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet formed in the 17th century. You'll see Le Puy with local experts Sisters Joan Lesinski and Kitty Hanley and visit the Bobbin Lace Learning Center.

Join us! To learn more about the history of Avila's founders and enjoy Avila's Centennial trip, contact Bailey Carr, Avila's director of alumni relations & annual fund, at **816.501.3780** or [bailey.carr@avila.edu](mailto:bailey.carr@avila.edu).



**GLOBUS**®





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# *Advance Your Career With A Master's Degree*

Gain a competitive edge with a graduate degree from Avila University.

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### **MBA**

Health Care Admin.  
Finance  
Accounting  
Marketing  
Management  
Management Info.  
Systems

### **Masters in Education**

Teaching & Learning  
Teaching English to  
Second Language  
Learners

### **Masters in Management**

Concentration in:  
Fundraising  
Instructional Design &  
Technology  
Project Management

### **Masters in Organizational Development**

### **Masters in Organizational Development**

Concentration in:  
Coaching Certification  
Executive Leadership  
Strategic Human  
Resources

### **Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology**

### **Masters of Science in Psychology**

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

### **Business**

Healthcare  
Accounting  
Finance  
Management

### **Management**

Fundraising  
Instructional Design &  
Technology  
Project Management

### **Organizational Development**

Leadership Coaching  
Executive Leadership  
Strategic Human  
Resources

### **Psychology**

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11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64145  
816.501.3737 • [avila.edu/graduatestudies](http://avila.edu/graduatestudies)

 **AVILA UNIVERSITY**  
*Be Inspired.*

# Avila University's Leadership

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-15

**Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D.**  
Caldwell University  
Caldwell, N.J.

**Stephen D. Dunn**  
J.E. Dunn Construction Company  
Fairway, Kan.

**Joseph T. Fahey, Vice Chair**  
J.M. Fahey Construction  
Company  
Kansas City, Mo.

**David W. Frantze '76**  
Stinson Leonard Street LLP  
Leawood, Kan.

**Tom Freeman**  
UBS Financial Services  
Shawnee Mission, Kan.

**Paulette Gladis, CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Nazareth Living Center  
Brentwood, Mo.

**Kenneth V. Hager**  
DST Systems, Inc.  
(retired)  
Leawood, Kan.

**Brad Hunt**  
Black & Veatch  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Robert T. Hunter, Chairman**  
Financial Counselors, Inc.  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Mary Frances Johnson,  
CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
St. Louis, Mo.

**David D. Kerr '76**  
State Government  
(retired)  
Ballwin, Mo.

**Vercie L. Lark**  
DST Systems  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Patricia Ann Lorenz,  
CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Shawn Madigan, CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Mary McKay, CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Christine Ojile '82**  
Kantar Retail Market Insights  
Leawood, Kan.

**Jeanne Hamilton Olofson  
'92, '94, '11**  
Community Advocate  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Irene O'Neill, CSJ, Ed.D.**  
Ministries Foundation  
Saint Paul, Minn.

**Rita Marie Schmitz,  
CSJ, Ph.D.**  
Province Leadership  
St. Louis, Mo.

**Mark C. Thompson**  
Country Club Bank  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Ana Valdez '96**  
Truman Medical Center  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Rick Weller, Treasurer**  
Euronet Worldwide, Inc.  
Overland Park, Kan.

## BOARD OF COUNSELORS 2014-15

**Alicia Cabrera-Hill '02**  
Model and Actor  
Louisburg, Kan.

**Amy D. Cline, MBA '96**  
Bryan Cave LLP  
Chicago, Ill.

**Virginia Coppinger, BSN '58**  
Community Advocate  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Derek Feagans '95**  
Bernstein-Rein  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Thomas J. Fritzlen, MD**  
Physicians Reference Laboratory  
(retired)  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Johnny Ingram, Jr. '83**  
AT&T  
Independence, Mo.

**Kay Julian '82**  
MS Society, Mid-America  
Chapter  
Leawood, Kan.

**John Kopecky, MBA '97**  
Kopecky Consulting  
Lenexa, Kan.

**Stephen F. Lampone**  
Kansas City Parks and Recreation  
(retired)  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Gregory Alan Lever '85**  
National Institute for  
Construction Excellence  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Autumn Markley '97**  
Goppert Financial  
Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Blane Markley '97**  
Spencer Fane  
Britt & Browne, LLP  
Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Lauren McCarthy '07**  
McCarthy Chevrolet  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Julie McManus '67 Chair**  
Community Advocate  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Judge Edith Louise Messina  
'66, '06**  
16th Judicial Circuit Court  
of Jackson County  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Mona J. Moran, RN, BSN,  
CCM, QI '96**  
Children's Mercy Hospital  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Ann O'Hare**  
The Historical Society  
of New Santa Fe  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Jeanne C. Rau-Flattery '92**  
Millennium International  
Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Heath M. Roberts '10**  
Children's Mercy Hospital  
Kearney, Mo.

**Belinda Troxler '88**  
Community Advocate  
Shawnee Mission, Kan.

**Tim Waris**  
St. Thomas More  
Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Julia Ann Weiss '78, MBA '83**  
Saint Luke's Cancer Institute  
Kansas City, Mo.

**Linda Wiersma '97, '02**  
Sunflower Elementary  
Paola, Kan.

**Faith Wilson, Ph.D.**  
St. Teresa's Academy  
(retired)  
Overland Park, Kan.

**John Woolway**  
Vantage Investment  
Partners, LLC  
Leawood, Kan.



## GOPPERT THEATRE AT AVILA UNIVERSITY



### Romeo and Juliet

Nov. 20–23, 2014

### Silence

Feb. 26–28, Mar. 1, 2015

### Man of La Mancha

Apr. 23–26, 2015

### Winter Concert

Dec. 12, 2014

### Haydn's Creation

(with Chamber Orchestra)  
May 1, 2015

Reserve tickets online:  
[avila.edu/theatre/tickets.asp](http://avila.edu/theatre/tickets.asp)  
or call 816.501.3699





**'09 MICHAEL STOLBERG** and wife Sarah welcome son, Jaydon Thomas Stolberg, on Oct. 1, 2014. Jaydon weighed 6 pounds and 4 ounces and was 18 inches long. Jaydon joins big sister, Aly.

**'64 JUDY (BRISCO) DELL'ORCO** lives in Allen, Texas with her husband, Bob. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Judy spent 25 years as a clinical microbiologist and was a research technologist for five years. Her favorite college memories are her French classes taught by S. Rita Agnes.

**'64 KATHLEEN (HEGARTY) THORNE** received the 2014 Honored Class Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'65 JULIE (MURPHY) GARWOOD** received the 2014 Alumni Achievement Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'71 ELLEN DUKES, CSJA, PH.D.,** received the 2014 School of Nursing Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'78 NANCY SEIBOLT, MD,** received the 2014 School of Science and Health Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'79 SUE (HAGERMAN) KING, PH.D.,** received the 2014 Honored Class Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'81 RONALD HARLAND SR.** received the 2014 School of Business Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'83 LESLIE WELLINGTON MIN-JAREZ** is the women veterans program manager with organization-wide leadership responsibility for the care of women veterans in southern Arizona.

The role includes program development, provider and patient education, community outreach, data collection/analysis and communication of outcomes and needed programs to the community, local and national government leaders and women veterans. Leslie and her husband, Angel, live in Tucson with Angel's mother, two sons and a nephew.

**'84 IBRAHEEM BADEJO** was promoted to senior director, New Ventures, at Johnson & Johnson. He is responsible for identifying new investment opportunities for the medical device sector of the company. He is stationed at the J & J Innovation Center in Cambridge, Mass.

**'86 TERESA KILLIAN** earned the Cardinal Burke excellence in teaching award in May for her outstanding implementation of best practices in education. Teresa has been teaching at Sr. Justin Martyr Elementary in Sunset Hills, Mo. for 11 years.

**'86 STUART LINDEMAN** and his wife, Anne, each own and operate a healthcare business. Stuart is president & CEO at Mission Health, LLC, a premier provider of senior living and skilled rehabilitation communities in Tampa, Fla. Anne operates her occupational therapy practice in Connecticut. Both are extremely passionate about delivering high-quality healthcare. On a visit back to campus, Stuart, Anne and Victor (Stuart's father) were very impressed with the many new buildings and renovations.

**'86 LISA HILDEBRAND AND BRIAN BARNHART, '89,** met Avila President Ron Slepitz and

Keith Jaloma, director of major gifts, for lunch at Morandi's in Greenwich Village in New York. Brian is enjoying his career as producing director at the Axis Company. He remembers the great theatre connections he made while at Avila which led him to work while going to school. All that experience took him to New York. Brian is looking forward to the return of an Avila black box theatre within Goppert.

Lisa is department administrator, College of Arts and Sciences, English Department, New York University. She is anticipating a move within NYU to return working with actors. While at Avila University, Lisa perfected her writing skills. She also worked with the local Martin City Melodrama. Coincidentally, Lisa lives across the hall from Avila grads, Earl Baker Jr. '92 and his wife, Marya Ripperger, '90.

**'86 MARY BECKWITH SCHROEDER AND JACKIE MORANVILLE '86,** both nursing alumni, recently made a campus visit. They enjoyed seeing the many new buildings and renovated spaces. They reminisced about movie nights, basketball and soccer games, as well as hanging out with the theatre majors because they were always fun. Mary and her husband live in St. Joseph, Mo. Jackie and her husband live in Las Vegas where Jackie continues to love her nursing career.

**'89 CARMEN (CANZONERE) BISACCA** received the 2014 Alumni Service Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'90 DONNA NJEMANZE** resides in Phoenix, Ariz. and has two sons and one daughter in college



**'09, '12 BAILEY UMSTATTD CARR** and husband, Andy, welcomed their first son, Abram Scott Carr, on April 4, 2014. Abram weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches.

studying engineering, pre-med and psychology. Donna returned to Avila University for the first time since she graduated to be inducted into the Heritage Society. She brought 11 family members from Arizona and her mother, Evelyn Thomas, with her. Donna's bequest will establish two endowed scholarship funds to support African-American students.

**'91 KATE AXTELL** has been in Dallas for three years working for FedEx Office. During this time, she has focused on the development of a holistic communications strategy for internal and external audiences. In her spare time, she has taken up cycling and photography.

**'93 JANET FORD** is a member of the Westridge Christian Church in Raytown, Mo. She is the vice president of the Faith Builders at the church and enjoys working with Show-Me Christian Homes for Children and Sojourners in Missouri. She is a full-time secretary of the Cass County, Mo. Citizens Advisory Board for Probation and Parole. She volunteers at the Probation and Parole Office in Belton, Mo. and finds it rewarding to help current officers and other staff members with their work.

**'93, '99 TAMELA HANDIE** was elected to the Kansas City Credit Union Supervisory Committee. This committee oversees the Kansas City Credit Union Board of Directors. She is serving a three-year term.

**'00, '04, '06 SHEILA (MCWILLIAMS) GILCHRIST** received the 2014 Graduate Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'02 STACIE BARBER** welcomed her second baby, a little girl, on July 25, 2014. Her name is Brileigh Jean Barber and she joins big brother Kaysen Wayne Barber, who is 3 years old.

**'02 ELIZABETH DONNELLY** was awarded the Rose Brooks Center Points of Light award for 2014 at the volunteer appreciation awards at KCP&L headquarters.

**'03 TIM GREENWELL** was named a finalist for elementary school principal of the year in the Lewisville (Texas) Independent School District, where he leads Liberty Elementary School. Tim also built a new home in Carrollton, Texas, just north of Dallas.

**'04 AHMAD ASHKAR** received the 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'04 BERNARD FLUCKE** recently accepted a position as an automotive technology instructor at Vatterott College.

**'04 DAVID MADEO** started his own business as an independent manufacturers' representative for medical device manufacturers. He is married to Jamie (Giudicessi) '05, and they have three children. Jamie is a doctor of physical therapy at North Kansas City Hospital. David was at Avila during the 9/11 attacks and recalls many classroom conversations pertaining to them.

**'06 JESSICA COLLINS-SCACCIA** married her college sweetheart, Massimo Scaccia '06, on June 14, 2014, at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, Conn. The couple resides in

New York City. Jessica is a professional model and an active speaker at schools about women and positive body images. Massimo recently was promoted as the East Coast Regional Manager of Presence Marketing for Nestle.

**'07 JILL MONTGOMERY ANST** and husband, Reid, welcomed their second child, Grace Yevonne Anast, on June 17, 2014.

**'07 ZACHARY CHOATE** received the 2014 School of Visual and Communication Arts Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'08 BRENTLEY BRAZELL** received the 2014 School of Professional Studies Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'08, '09 WENDY (CONNELLY) KLINE** received the 2014 School of Education Alumni award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'09 BRITTANY STRELLUF** recently had the great pleasure of joining the Avila community as an adjunct professor for Avila's Intensive Language and Culture Program.

**'09 JESSY BORST** was married on September 20 to Patrick Renz. The couple resides in Overland Park, Kan.

**'09 JOY DONZE** received the 2014 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming. Joy is enrolled at The New School, a new theatre school run by actors, where





**'13 ERIN SCOTT TALBERT** married Brian Talbert May 17th, 2014.

Joy is pursuing her master's degree. Joy recently completed writing her first play about Vietnam veterans.



**'09 MELINDA BANKS BROWN** welcomed baby boy Bryden in June, joining big brother Nolan (3 1/2). After receiving her bachelor's in radiologic science, Melinda worked at KU Med for five years and was lead tech in radiology. Melinda is working for Medtronic and helping patients directly.

**'09 KIRSTEN LIPARI-BRAMAN** and husband, John, welcomed their fourth child, Charlie Francis Patrick, on March 17, 2014. He is a wonderful addition to their family with son Matthew-John (16), daughter Anna (14), and son Aidan (11).

**'09 REGINA MADDUX** recently moved to Seattle and has a new job with Genie.

**'09 NICHOLAS WARD-BOPP** received the 2014 Recent Alumni Award at the 2014 Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming.

**'10 MICHAEL BRUCE** recently started his own business, Bruce's Lawns, Landscaping and Design LLC, based out of Independence, Mo.

**'10 LISA BURKS** recently accepted a position at Rogers Hospital in Milwaukee as a child therapist.

**'10 SARAH PARKER** married Thomas Gregar '05, on August 16. Sarah graduated with an elementary education degree and Thomas graduated with a computer science degree. The couple resides in Leawood, Kan.

**'10 BERNADETTE WEEKS** is getting married to Randy Barth in November 2014. The couple will reside in Louisville, Ky.



**'11 BETHANY BAUER** and her husband, Matt, welcomed son Reid Michael Bauer on May 15, 2014. Reid weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. Reid joins big brother Kaden.

**'11 EMMALYN VOGT** was recently engaged to Mitch Case. The couple is planning to wed May 2015.

**'12 JAKOBB BALDWIN** has a new job at the Social Security Administration as a benefits authorizer. This new position gives him the opportunity to use the education he gained while in the social work program at Avila University.

**'12 CHRIS THOMAS** was recently called up to the St. Louis Cardinals AA affiliate, the Springfield Cardinals.

**'13 JOSH ALCORN** was recently employed with CRMPoint.net in Kansas City.

**'13 SELAH ATARI** recently accepted an offer for an SQL and Oracle Database Administrator at Grantham University in Lenexa, Kan.

**'13 ROBIN ROWLAND** was recently named vice president of advancement & communications at Wayside Waifs.

**'13 KEVIN STONE** recently started a position with Adaptive Solutions Group recruiting in Kansas City.

**'14 SHAWNALEE CRISS** accepted a full-time position with the University of Kansas Medical Center as an assessment and evaluation coordinator for the Office of Medical Education.

**'14 CELESTE GREENLEE** was recently named Senior Director of Development – Alumni & Annual Fund at Avila University.

**'14 TORIE MURILLO**, a three-time first-team all-HAAC award winner, will be helping head coach Larry Williams lead the Avila women's basketball team into the 2014-15 season.

**'14 ALEXZIS THOMSON** will start working at Dimensional Innovations, located in Overland Park, Kan., as an in-house designer.

### Stay Connected

*We want to hear from you!*

Job promotion, new baby, recent travels, new home? Let us know so we can share your good news!

Email your news to [alumni@avila.edu](mailto:alumni@avila.edu) or complete the What's New With You form at [avila.edu/alumni](http://avila.edu/alumni).

# In Memoriam

**'53 ELIZABETH NEWMAN** passed away Aug. 16, 2014, at the age of 78. She began her higher education at the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'54 ROSE RYDINGS**, 82, passed away July 17, 2014. Rose earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'60 DOROTHY MYERS** passed away Aug. 8, 2014. Dorothy received a Bachelor of Arts in history from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'64 JUDITH KITCHIN** passed away Aug. 20, 2014. Judith earned her Bachelor of Arts in speech/theatre from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'64 GRACIELA PORTUGUEZ** passed away July 19, 2014, at the age of 87. Graciela earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'72 HELEN BRISTOW, SCL**, passed away June 3, 2014. S. Helen, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth order, received a Bachelor of Arts in religious education from Avila College, now Avila University, in 1972. She later earned a Master of Arts in counseling from UMKC and taught in grade and high schools in the Kansas City area.

**'80 STEPHEN LEE** passed away Aug. 14, 2014, at the age of 58. Stephen earned his Bachelor of Arts

in speech/theatre from Avila College, now Avila University, and went on to a successful TV and film career as a character actor. He began his career in the early 1980s on dramas such as *Hart to Hart*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Remington Steele* and *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*. Other appearances included *Quantum Leap*, *Murder One*, *Dark Angel* and *Grey's Anatomy*. His film credits included *WarGames*, *La Bamba*, *Burlesque* and *The Negotiator*. The role he may be remembered for most, however, was as an overly loquacious cabinet installer on *Seinfeld*.

**'82 ROBERT DEHAEMERS** passed away May 28, 2014. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Avila College, now Avila University.

**'82 DONNA MOORE** passed away March 5, 2014. She received a Bachelor of Science in medical technology from Avila College, now Avila University. She worked for 38 years in the lab at Kansas University Medical Center until retiring in 2011.

**'83 KAREN DAVIS** passed away April 24, 2014. She received a Bachelor of Arts in communication from what then was Avila College, now Avila University.

**'00 WANDA PLUMLEE** passed away March 17, 2014. She received her Bachelor of Science in information science and was part of the Honor Society at Avila College, now Avila University.

**'01 SETH BOYER** passed away March 11, 2014. He received a Bachelor of Arts in communication from what was then Avila College, now Avila University.



**ADA COBURN**, a friend of Avila University and mother of Avila professor Carol Coburn, Ph.D., CSJA, passed away March 31, 2014. Ada was a regular at Avila University theatre events.

**GEORGE ROBERTSON**, father of Avila staff member Pattie Robertson, passed away on June 15, 2014, and was a friend of Avila University. His family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Avila University Performing Arts Center.

**MARJORIE SIRRIDGE, PH.D.**, 92, passed away peacefully in the presence of family on July 30, 2014. She was the mother of Stephen Sirridge, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Avila for more than 30 years before retiring in 2013, and a friend of Avila University.

**CHARLOTTE SWEENEY**, 98, passed away April 22, 2014. She was a friend of Avila University.

**M. JOSEPH VAN DYKE** passed away April 22, 2014. Joe was a friend to Avila University and established an endowed scholarship, called the Mock-Specht Family Scholarship.

*To make a memorial gift, please visit [avila.edu/give](http://avila.edu/give) or call 816.501.3602.*



# Goal!

Caryn Welch, Eagles Senior,  
Named National NAIA  
Offensive Player of the Week



## Focus on Fitness

**J**oe Barnhill is the Director of Learning Services at Avila University. Joe has been an adjunct instructor at Avila since 1999 and joined the Learning Services staff fulltime in the spring of 2004. His academic expertise is in economics and math. His passion is serving Avila's students. Joe saw a need on campus and acted boldly. After an exercise room was built in the Mabree Fieldhouse, Joe was excited to see students use it alongside him. When the old equipment was placed in the new space, Joe had to act. He pledged enough money to cover nearly half of the cost of the new equipment and an appropriate exercise floor. It is a beautiful space filled with quality equipment. Thank you, Joe and the students at Avila University. 🏋️



**T**he National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Heart of America Athletic Conference announced in September that Avila senior Caryn Welch had been named the Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week for her performance during the week of Sept. 1 – Sept. 7.

Avila played 3 games over that stretch, and Welch led the Eagles with 6 goals and 1 assist, helping her team to a 2-1 record.

Welch led the team in scoring for the season with nine goals as the Eagles finished 6-10-2. 🏆



# New Coaches in Eagles Athletics



**Anthony Boyer** was hired as the inaugural head men's and women's track and field and cross country coach. Boyer, a Kansas City, Mo. native, comes to Avila after spending one year as the assistant track and field/cross country coach at William Woods University in Fulton, Mo.

"This opportunity is truly a dream come true for me," said Boyer. "To start a program and put my stamp on it in my home town of Kansas City is just something that you never even think is possible."



To help student athletes and coaches form and execute better strength and conditioning workouts, Avila University has appointed **Brian Ciolek** as its first ever strength and conditioning coach.

"I am enthusiastic for this opportunity to assist the Avila athletic teams in reaching new heights of performance," said Ciolek.

In addition to being strength and conditioning coach for the Avila Athletic Department, Ciolek will also serve as a member of the faculty, teaching multiple classes in the kinesiology department each semester.



**Stephen Hoffman '12** is the new men's head soccer coach.

"I'm excited to be in this position," said Hoffman. "Not many people have the opportunity to coach at this level in one of the best conferences in the NAIA. I'm eager to get started and to keep building on the solid foundation that Chris (Clements) has set here."

Hoffman was a team captain for the Eagles during the 2010 season and was hired by Clements the following season as an assistant coach for both the men's and women's programs.



**Samantha Honeycutt** was named the new head coach of the Avila softball program. Honeycutt, a Pleasant Hill, Mo. native, spent the last four seasons as the head assistant coach at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan.

"I want to play a part in the way the community sees Avila softball," Honeycutt said. "First and foremost, I want us to be competitive in our conference with the eventual goal of winning it. I am extremely

excited and grateful for this opportunity, and I cannot wait to start working with the players and build something great."



**Sara Matthews** was hired as the new head women's soccer coach. She came to Avila after spending four successful seasons as an assistant women's soccer coach at Baker University. Matthews, a native of Kansas City, said that accepting the job at Avila was an amazing feeling.

"I am thrilled to call Avila my home," said Matthews. "It is a rare opportunity to follow your dream in your home town, and I can do just that. I can't wait to get started." 🦅



Check out your Eagles  
on Avila's new athletic website at  
[WWW.AVILAATHLETICS.COM](http://WWW.AVILAATHLETICS.COM)





# Athletics Q&A

*Brandon Johnson (center), Vice President for Enrollment Management & Athletics, stands with fellow Eagles Athletics leaders as he gives us an overview of a strong future for Avila's student-athletes. Pictured are, left to right: Brian Ciolek, strength and conditioning coach; Anthony Boyer, head track & field coach; Rodney Perry, head men's basketball coach; JoAnn Immele, office manager; Johnson; Stephen Hoffman, head men's soccer coach; Justin Berna, head football coach; Larry Williams, head women's basketball coach; Torie Murillo, assistant women's basketball coach.*

**B**randon Johnson added athletics to his vice president of enrollment title in September 2013. In the time since, Avila University has added a sport – track and field for both men and women – and five new head coaches. Sports Information Director Brandon Droge spoke with Johnson about what the Athletics Department has accomplished recently and where it is headed.

**Q: You've been in athletics for a little more than a year now. How do you feel everything is going?**

**A:** I believe if you ask the student-athletes and other members of the Avila community, things are going great. From our focus on academics and student success to the performance on the playing surface, the commitment and energy is exciting.

**Q: There have been many improvements made recently within the athletic department. Can you explain which improvement you are most proud of and why?**

**A:** The creation of Athletics' vision, mission and objectives is providing clarity to our work. The coaches and athletes

understand their expectations. This allows us to focus on the actions that will make our department better and stronger. Our athletic department is a very important part of this university, and we are just doing everything we can to put our student athletes, coaches, and staff in the best situations to succeed.

**Q: Multiple positions have been added within the athletic department and multiple new coaches hired. Can you explain the reasoning for all of the new faces?**

**A:** We are positioning Eagle Athletics for unprecedented and consistent success. We have dedicated staff to strengthen our sports medicine team to best develop our talent and to care for our athletes. We added a full-time sports information director who led the efforts to launch our new website and has highlighted the success of our student-athletes. Additionally, Cristina Cowan '10, assistant director of athletics, was recently named interim director of athletics and will continue to guide the department's operations and compliance. Cristina is a former Eagle student-athlete and has the pride and dedication needed to support our coaches and students.

**Q: For those that may not understand, how important is a strong athletic department to the University as a whole?**

**A:** It is an important component of the Avila experience, for both those that participate in sport and for those that do not. Nearly one-third of our full-time undergraduates are student-athletes and are some of the most engaged student leaders on campus. Avila's student-athletes perform academically in a manner that proves they are students first.

**Q: You have accomplished a lot in just one short year in athletics. What are your plans moving forward?**

**A:** We will continue to perform well in the classroom and be leaders on campus and in the local community. We will find ways to be more competitive in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. We must remain focused on what we can control and be strong advocates and examples of what college athletics is all about. For those who have experienced it first-hand, or perhaps as a spectator, athletics are a worthy asset to a university. 🏀



# Avila Heritage

**A**lthough neither of her parents received any formal education past high school, **Karen Van Dyke** said it always was a foregone conclusion that she would go to college.

“My parents were big proponents of education,” she said. “They grew up during the depression. My dad fought in World War II. They were married during the war. Then my dad went to work for the railroad for 43 years. They just never had the opportunity to go to college.”

Karen, who grew up just outside Pittsburgh, Pa., attended Lockhaven State College (now University), a college of 1,500 students located in central Pennsylvania. She received her degree in secondary education.

Marriage and starting a family relocated her to Kansas City, Mo., and when it came time for her daughter, Lauren, to attend college, she found her way to Avila University.

Karen said it was the best decision her daughter could have made.

“My daughter found her niche at Avila,” she said. “It was such a great experience for her. She just blossomed there.”

Lauren graduated with honors, earning a degree in education, and today works in education in San Diego.

Karen felt it was time to give back to the school that had helped her daughter flourish, while at the same time honoring her parents, both of whom have passed on. She created the Mock Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides a scholarship annually to help an undergraduate student in financial need.

“I thought, what better place to honor my parents than at Avila,” she said. “I think my mom and dad would want to do anything they could to help education, because they never had those opportunities. College was very important to them.” 🏡

*The Van Dyke family –*

*Michael, Karen and Lauren*

## Securing Avila’s Heritage

Establishing an endowed scholarship to benefit future Avila students is just one way you can join The Avila Heritage Society.

The Heritage Society was established in 1988 to recognize the remarkable contributions of Avila alumni and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans or lifetime planned gifts to support the future needs of the University. Such provisions may include:

- Bequests through Wills and Trusts
- Charitable Remainder or Lead Trusts
- Appreciated Securities
- Real Estate and Life Estates in Homes
- Gift Annuities
- Life Insurance Policies

To find out more about joining Avila’s Heritage Society or the gift vehicles above, please contact Keith Jaloma, director of major gifts, at 816.501.3696.



# *Save the Date*

## Avila University's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Steer Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 7, 2015 • 6 pm

Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Muehlebach Tower

Ken and Marilyn Hager, Honorary Chairs

Bob '78 and Pat '79 Hardin, Event Chairs

Live & Silent Auction • Live Band

Tables of 10 are \$2,500. Individual tickets are \$250.  
Recent Alumni Tickets: \$75 (for 2004-2014 alumni).

*Proceeds benefit the Avila University Scholarship Fund.*

Sponsorship packages are available.

For more information call 816-501-2450  
or email [advancement@avila.edu](mailto:advancement@avila.edu).

**[avila.edu/steer](http://avila.edu/steer)**

*Pictured from left to right: Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, Avila University President; Suzanne Slepitz; Ken and Marilyn Hager, Honorary Chairs; Bob '78 and Pat '79 Hardin, Event Chairs*

